

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1094

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor the life work and coming retirement of
Theotis Robinson of the University of
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize Theotis Robinson, the University of Tennessee's top diversity officer and one of the first black students to desegregate the campus in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Theotis Robinson is celebrated for his twenty-five years of service and excellence to the University of Tennessee (UT) as Vice President and member of the UT System Administration executive team for the last fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson's life has featured one major milestone after the next, from civil rights to city government to serving the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson draws much support from his wife, Jonida, who has always loved and encouraged him; and

WHEREAS, Theotis Robinson served as vice president of economic development for the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair and was a member of the Knoxville City Council from 1970 to 1977, the first African American elected to that office in more than a half century; and

WHEREAS, a charter inductee into the UT African American Hall of Fame in 1994, Mr. Robinson is a most honorable member of the UT Commission for Blacks; and

WHEREAS, a former political opinion columnist, Knoxville's *Metro Pulse* newspaper named him one of the 100 most influential Knoxvilleans of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, Theotis Robinson made a profound impact on his students at UT in 1989 as a lecturer in political science; and

WHEREAS, advancing in his career, Mr. Robinson joined the staff of the purchasing department and later served as an administrative aide in the Office of Federal Affairs until 1999; and

WHEREAS, Theotis Robinson would eventually transition within the Office of the Senior Vice President and was named the University of Tennessee's Vice President of Diversity and Equity in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Theotis Robinson has brought valued insight into the University's numerous constituencies and a unique perspective on history and social change that have shaped the University of Tennessee, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Theotis Robinson on his upcoming retirement, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.